

Article - Natural Resources

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§8–727.

- (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (2) “Elude” means to evade a police officer’s visual or audible signal to stop by:
 - (i) Willfully failing to stop the vessel;
 - (ii) Fleeing on foot; or
 - (iii) Any other means.
- (3) “Police officer” means an officer who is:
 - (i) In uniform, prominently displaying the officer’s badge or other insignia of office; or
 - (ii) In a vessel that is appropriately marked as an official law enforcement vessel, whether or not the officer is in uniform.
- (4) “Visual or audible signal” means a warning or command by hand, voice, emergency light, signal device, or siren.
- (b) A Natural Resources police officer or any law enforcement officer enforcing the provisions of this subtitle may stop, board, or inspect any vessel subject to this subtitle.
- (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an individual who is on a vessel may not display or operate a flashing blue light or signal device.
- (2) A police officer who is on a vessel of a county, municipal, State, or federal law enforcement agency may display and operate flashing blue lights or signal devices while responding to or at the scene of an emergency or pursuing a violator or suspected violator of the law.
- (d) On the immediate approach of a law enforcement vessel lawfully using a flashing blue light or signal device, an operator of another vessel, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall:

(1) Yield the right-of-way; and

(2) Stop the vessel and stay in that position until the law enforcement vessel has passed.

(e) An operator of a vessel may not elude or attempt to elude a police officer who gives a visual or audible signal to the operator to stop.

(f) (1) A person who violates subsection (c) or (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$500.

(2) A person who violates subsection (e) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction:

(i) For a first offense, is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or both; and

(ii) For a subsequent offense, is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or both.

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